

REMARKS

Proposed changes to Figures 2A and 2B are attached; the reference numerals 21 and 23 have been added.

The specification has been amended to make it clear that the radial clearance 21 is still present in the embodiments of Figures 2A and 2B, whereby the sleeve section 15 may be positioned at an acute angle to the cylinder. The clearance 21 is only closed adjacent to the convex bearing area 27. The radial gap 23 between the sleeve section 15 and the sleeve 11, on the other hand, is essentially absent in this embodiment.

Claim 1 has been amended to define more clearly over the prior art of record by citing the radial clearance which permits the acute angle.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected as anticipated by Sydekum US 5,553,713 in view of Handke US 5,544,725. To the extent that this rejection would be applied to claim 1 as presently amended, such rejection is traversed for the reasons following.

Sydekum discloses a suspension strut having an axially adjustable spring collar 13 whose height, in the embodiment of Figure 5, is adjusted by means of a screwed union ring 35 which is threaded on jacket 39 and bears against sleeve section 25 at conical surface 37. There is no radial clearance between the sleeve section 25 and the jacket 39 on cylinder 9, and therefore no way that the sleeve section can be installed at an acute angle to the cylinder.

Handke discloses the use of epoxy to fix a spring collar to a cylinder. This in no way suggests the radial clearance which permits the acute angle as claimed by applicants. Further, the use of epoxy in the suspension strut of Sydekum would prohibit axial adjustment of the spring collar, which would defeat the teaching of Sydekum.

The claims as amended being definite and patentably distinguishable from the art of record, withdrawal of the rejections and early allowance are solicited. If any objections remain, a call to the undersigned is requested.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application; however, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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